

TROUT CREEK TIMBER SALE

March 16, 2009, Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Plains Unit (NWLO) – Approximately 4 air miles west of Trout Creek, Montana.
- Sanders County – Section 36, T25N-R32W
- 100% Common School Trust

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 16,640 tons at 5.6" diameter inside bark (DIB) or 3,010 MBF.
- The estimated minimum value is \$23.31/ton for stumpage and Forest Improvement on all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 5.53 tons/MBF is the conversion factor of 5.6 inches DIB.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale consists of six harvest units totaling 261 acres.
- Silvicultural prescriptions proposed are seed tree harvest on 261 acres which will leave 15-25 trees per acre, favoring western larch, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir for seed trees (leave trees) to promote natural regeneration. Natural regeneration in the project area will be assessed and the site will be planted as needed.
- Silvicultural prescriptions will remove unhealthy trees as well as those with poor vigor from the overstory while retaining healthy, dominant and co-dominant trees to promote long term forest health.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest Systems:

- 100% Ground based (tractor).

Road Construction:

- Approximately 0.8 mile of new road construction and 0.8 mile of reconstruction and reconditioning are required to access the harvest units. Approximately 0.6 mile of road maintenance is required to upgrade existing roads to meet current BMPs. Approximately 0.5 mile of road would be reclaimed and abandoned. All currently closed roads and all new roads would be closed to promote wildlife security and reduce the spread of noxious weeds.
- The Purchaser would have the option of using existing roads and skid trails for skidding and hauling during the course of the sale. Upon completion of road work, all haul roads would meet BMP standards.

Public Involvement:

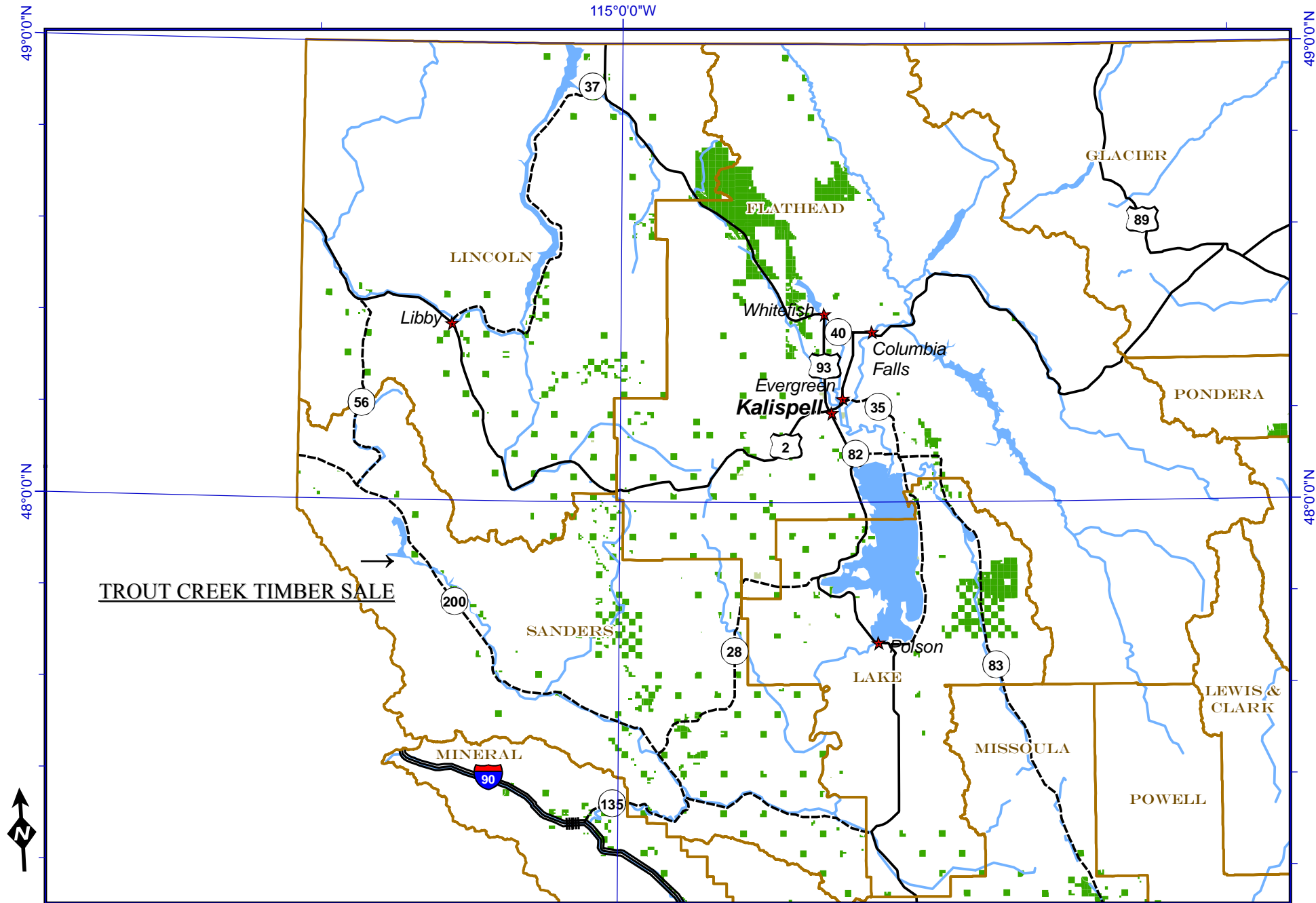
- Public involvement was solicited through legal notices published in the Valley Press and Lake County Leader as well as letters sent to neighboring land owners. The public and DNRC specialists helped identify issues that were analyzed.

- Two comments were received in regards to this project. These issues were analyzed and mitigated through project design and incorporated into the timber sale contract.

Issues and Mitigations:

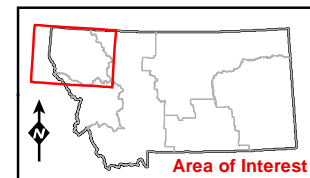
- **Roads:** While 0.8 mile of new road would be built, 0.5 mile of existing road would be reclaimed. There would be reconditioning and improvement of existing roads and upon completion of roadwork, all haul roads would meet BMP standards. New construction, reconditioned and improved roads would be water barred, grass seeded and fertilized at the direction of the Forest Officer, as well as closed to vehicle traffic.
- **Weed Management:** To minimize the risk of weeds, roads and skid trail approaches would be seeded and spot treated with chemicals. Prior to entering the site, off-road logging equipment would be cleaned and inspected through the timber sale contract to avoid seed migration. Roads would be closed following the sale to avoid migration of weed seed into the area. Post-harvest, the area would be included in the Plains Unit's integrated weed management program.
- **Air Quality:** Concerns were raised about the burning of logging slash. Efforts would be made to dispose of logging slash by chipping or grinding instead of burning.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Trout Creek Timber Sale.



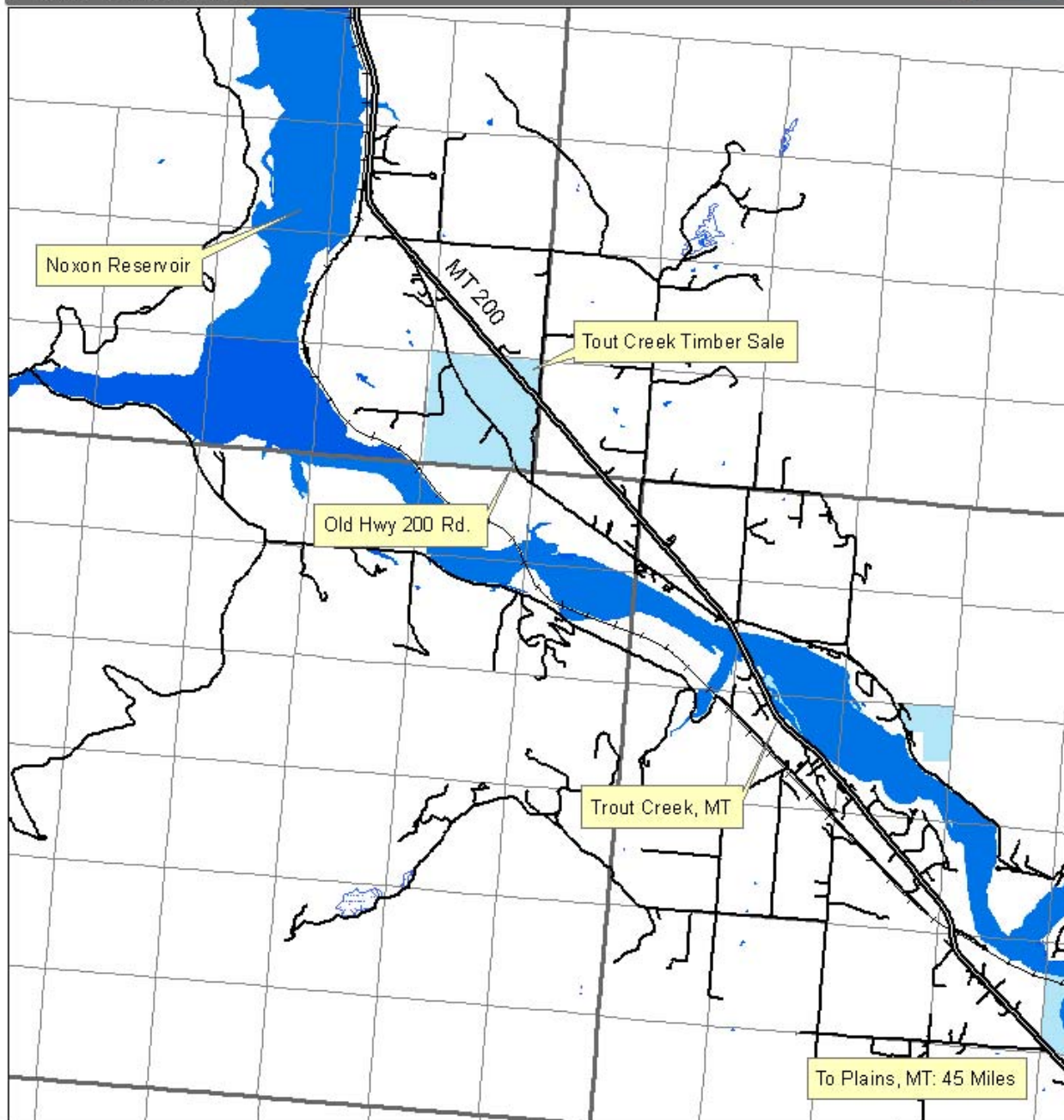
	Interstate Highway		Rivers		Lakes
	U.S. Route		City		DNRC managed for timber
	State Highway		County		DNRC other

21 February 2007
 Montana DNRC
 Technical Services Section/dr



Trout Creek Timber Sale, Haul Route

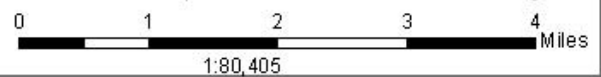
S36, T25N, R32W



Legend

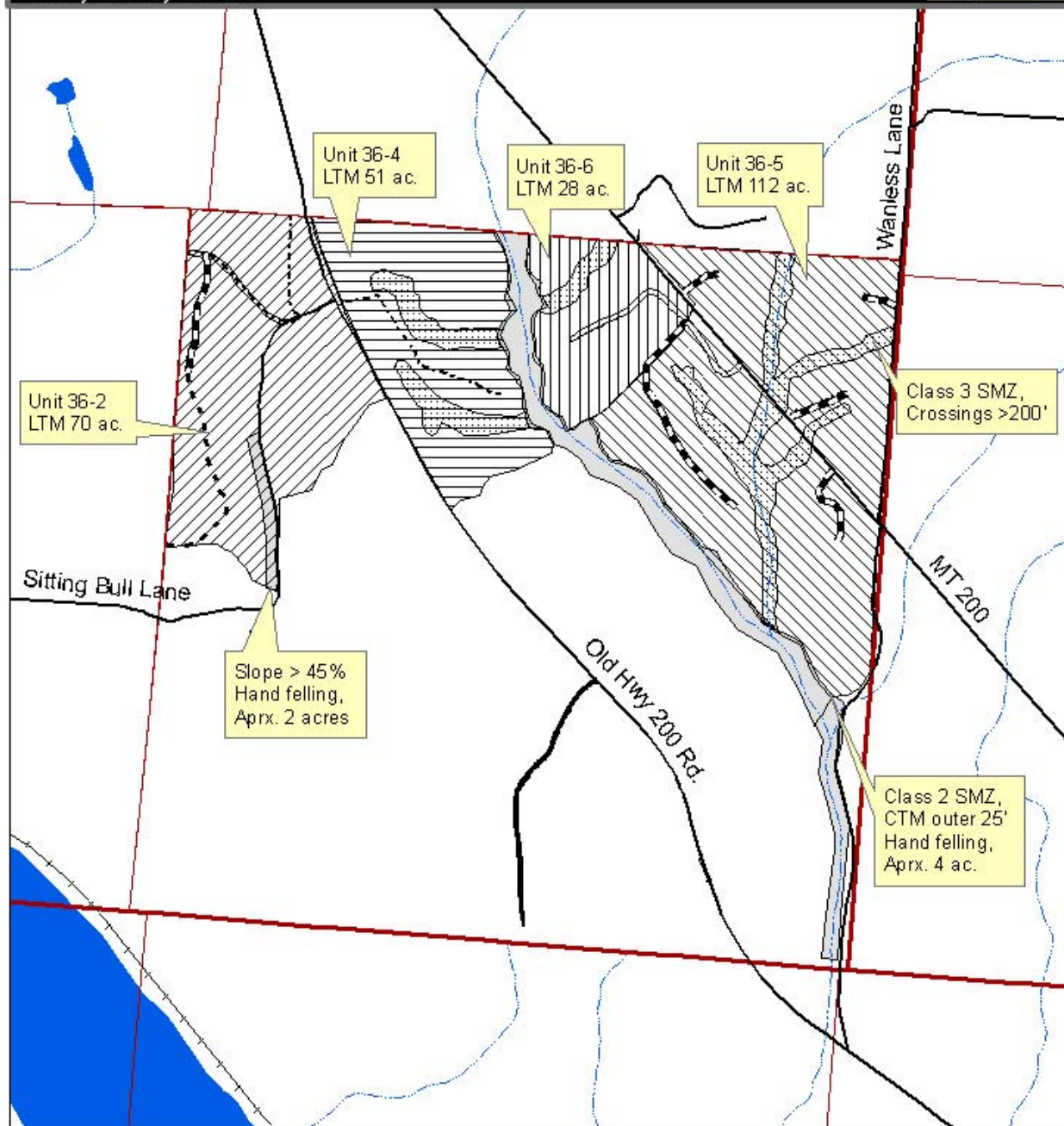
- Highways
- Open Roads
- DNRC Land
- Section Lines

Montana DNRC
Trust Land Management Division
Northwestern Land Office
Plains Unit, Jan. 2009



Trout Creek Timber Sale, Harvest Plan

S36, T25N, R32W

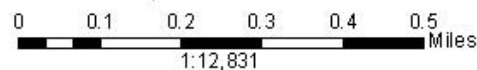


Legend

CUTTING UNIT

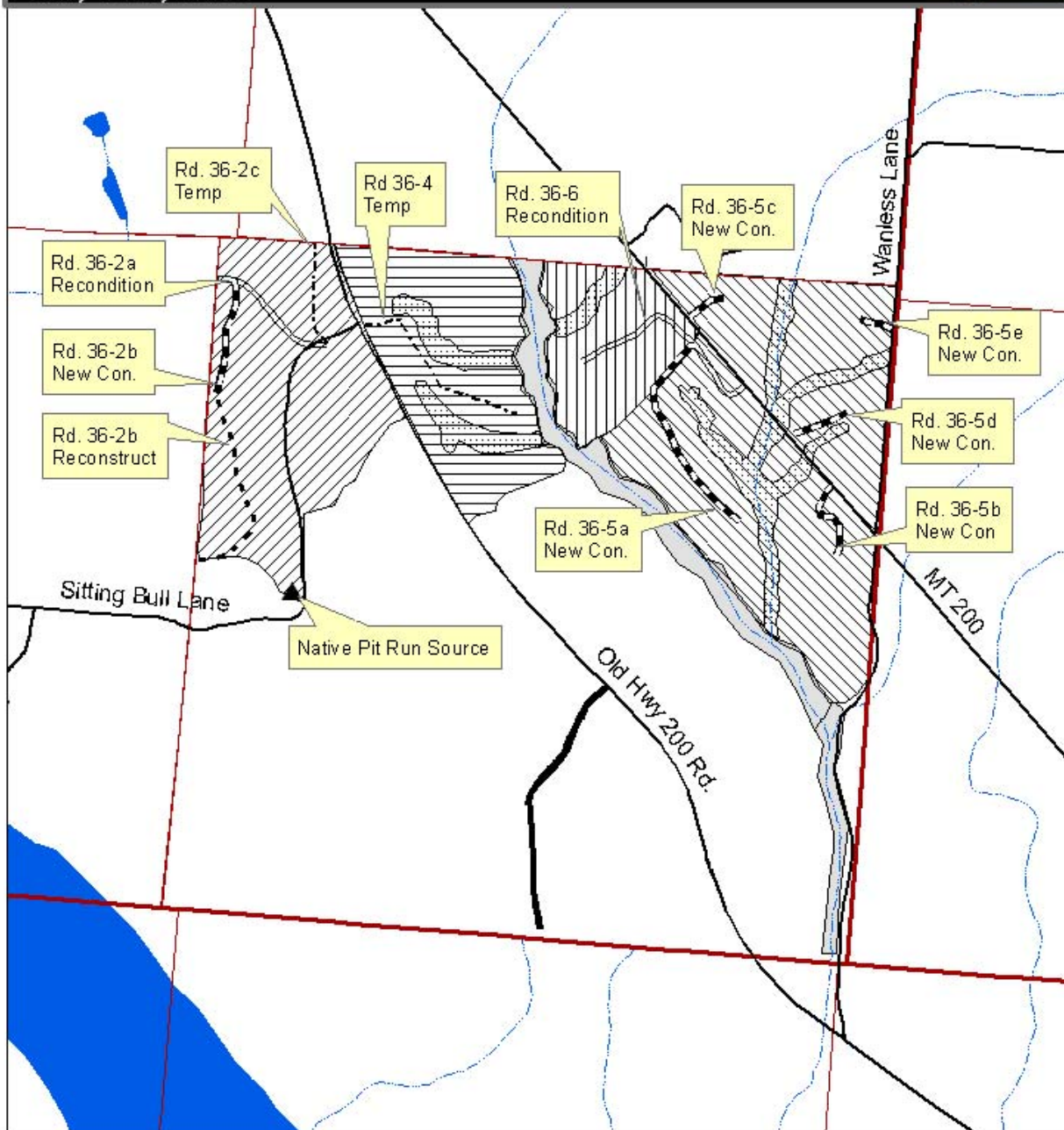
- 36-2, 70 ac. — new construction
- 36-4, 51 ac. — reconstruction
- 36-5, 112 ac. — Temp Roads
- 36-6, 28 ac. — Class 2 SMZ
- Open Roads — Class 3 SMZ

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Plains Unit, Jan. 2009



Trout Creek Timber Sale, Transportation Plan

S36, T25N, R32W



Legend

CUTTING UNIT	newconstruction
36-2, 70 ac.	reconstruction
36-4, 51 ac.	recondition
36-5, 112 ac.	Temp Roads
36-6, 28 ac.	Class 2 SMZ
Open Roads	Class 3 SMZ
Local Borrow Source	

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0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 Miles
1:13,490

